

APPOINTMENTS

From Brother Superior General and his Council

Brothers Shanthi Liyanage (South Asia), Brendan Geary (West Central Europe) and Maurice Berquet (L'Hermitage) were recently appointed as Provincial for a second term. Moreover, at the end of Brother Luis G. Sobrado's mandate as Superior of the AMAG Sector – which in July will become a District depending on the General Administration – the General Council has appointed Brother Juan Castro as Superior of this future District. Thank you very much, Brother Luis, for your generosity in accepting the challenge of serving the Institute in that beloved Sector, after two terms on the General Council.



Other appointments of Brothers at the service of the General Administration are:

- Brother Armando Alegría (Santa María de los Andes), computer services for the general administration;
- Brother Ton Martínez Frigola (L'Hermitage), second term in the General Administration, as a member of the management team of the General House;

- Brother Dennis Cooper (Australia), director of the ongoing formation programs for the English language;
- Brothers Alfredo Herrera (East Asia) and Sylvain Yao (West Africa) will collaborate with Brother Dennis in the formators program for the English language in 2014.
- Brother Ángel Medina (Paraguay), reappointed as director of the ongoing formation programs in Spanish and Portuguese;
- Brother José Feix (Rio Grande do Sul), reappointed as Deputy of the ongoing formation program for third age brothers in Spanish and Portuguese;
- Brother Tony Leon (Australia), Assistant Director of the Secretariat of Brothers Today;
- Brother Miguel Ángel Espinosa (Central Mexico), Assistant Director of the Secretariat for Mission.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Brothers Ernesto Sanchez and Antonio Ramalho of the General Council begin their visit to the Province of Mediterranea on 18 April.

Br Javier Espinosa, Director of the Secretariat of the Laity, has returned to the General House after visiting Mexico, Guatemala and Cuba.

Brs Victor Preciado, Econome General, and Joao do Prado, Director of the Secretariat of Mission, will attend the Course in Marist Management in Curitiba, Brasil, from 17 to 26 April.

CALLED TO LIVE IN UNITY

9th Annual General Meeting of UMBRASIL

The Marist Union of Brazil (UMBRASIL) held its 9th Annual General Meeting (AGM) on March 14 and 15, 2013, at the Israel Pinheiro Convention Center in Brasilia. It was attended by 30 representatives from the Provinces of Rio Grande do Sul, Brasil Centro-Sul, Brasil Centro-Norte, and the District of Amazonia.

The President of the Superior Council of UMBRASIL was elected during the meeting, as well as the Board of Directors and the Audit Committee. The Activity Report and the Consolidated Balance Sheet of 2012 were presented, in addition to the proposed Plan of Activities for 2013.

Brother Valdicer Civa Fachi, Executive Secretary of UMBRASIL, presented a proposal to develop a new strategic plan for UMBRASIL and the Marists in Brazil, which will be drawn up collectively with the participation of the Provinces and the District, through their representatives in different organisms of UMBRASIL, assisted by an external consulting firm.

A number of activities were also discussed, such as the following: International Marist Youth Gathering (IMYG 2013/CHANGE); World Youth Day; ExpoCatolica 2013; Vocational Fair; Teaching Materials Project; Futurum Website; 2nd Marist International Mission Assembly; 1st Marist Institutional



Representation Gathering; 1st Inter-American Forum of the Mission Committee and Subcommittees; 5th Marist Mission and Management Meeting; International FMSI/BICE Seminar; Meeting of the Consecrated Life and Laity Committees; and 1st Marist Fundraising Meeting.

Before the Assembly, the Provincial Councils gathered for a day of sharing and formation around the theme of "We are many members, yet one body" (1 Cor 12:12), with the aim of making the mission and functioning of UMBRASIL known to its associates, in view of promoting unity among Marists in Brazil and of ensuring the flow of information, participation and shared decision-making.

Brother João do Prado, representing the General Council, spoke via Skype

about "The bicentennial of the Institute: from Champagnat to the new perspectives for the Marist mission". Bishop Leonardo Ulrich Steiner, Secretary General of the National Conference of Bishops of Brazil, held a speech entitled "Called to Live in Unity", which included biblical, ecclesiastical, social and religious life dimensions.

The Provincial Councils also had the opportunity to know the history of the collaboration between Marist Provinces in Brazil, and went through an induction process to become acquainted with the mission, vision, organizational model, and ruling documents of the UMBRASIL. Throughout the meeting, each Province and District had the opportunity to present, although briefly, its organizational model and priorities.



Latest deceased Brothers

15/04/2013: Bernhard Kletzmeier - Europe Centre-Ouest
 15/04/2013: Kevin Joseph Hore - New Zealand
 15/04/2013: Manoel Alles - Rio Grande do Sul
 14/04/2013: João Batista Camilotto - Rio Grande do Sul
 13/04/2013: Luis Castilla del Val - Mediterránea

11/04/2013: Luis Narganes García - Norandina
 10/04/2013: Santiago García Sandoval - Compostela
 28/03/2013: Manuel Antonio Alvarenga - América Central
 23/03/2013: Brian Horton - Australia
 08/03/2013: Honorato Saiz Santamaría - Ibérica

PROVINCE OF WEST-CENTRAL EUROPE

5th Provincial Chapter

The 5th Provincial Chapter of the Province of West-Central Europe was held from 1 – 5th April at St. Ottilien Abbey in Bavaria, Germany. (West-Central Europe comprises Belgium, Germany, Great Britain, Ireland and the Netherlands.)

In his opening speech on Monday evening, Brother Brendan Geary, Provincial, thanked all the people who, in different ways, have been involved in the management of the Province. He expressed the hope that the Chapter will establish priorities that will give a clear direction to the Provincial Council for the coming years. He emphasised the relationship with lay people.

Thanks to a video recording Brother Emili Turú was also present at the beginning of the Chapter. He said that the Chapter takes place in a special time for the Church with the beginning of the pontificate of Pope Francis, and also that the Easter liturgy is an invitation to the Chapter to reflect on the current situation, like the disciples of Emmaus.

Brother Emili wished the Chapter joy, hope and optimism. He concluded with the wish that it may carry out its consultative role in an atmosphere of fraternal dialogue.

The Chapter continued on Tuesday, 2nd April, with the presentation of the reports produced by the Provincial Council and by the commissions, and the creation of a new model for the election of capitulants in 2016. The declining number of brothers and the increasing average age require a model different from the current 10% rule.

On Wednesday, 3rd April, the Chapter heard from four lay people who are involved in Marist life in the Prov-



ince, two as Head Teachers of Marist schools and two as members of Marist fraternities. The former spoke about the ways that the Marist Spirit in education is encouraged, developed and promoted in their schools, with ideas on how to continue this into the future, and the latter spoke about their involvement in their fraternities, and how this experience supported the way they live their Christian vocation. This was a significant day for the Chapter. There were discussions in groups in the afternoon that were marked by a sense of energy and vitality. It became clear that whatever we do in future must be in communion with our lay colleagues and associates, with an emphasis on mission and spirituality.

On Thursday, 4th April, the Provincial

Chapter elected the members of the new Provincial Council: Brothers Ronnie McEwan, P.J. McGowan, Michael Schmalzl and Maurice Taildeman. In the afternoon the Chapter reflected on the priorities for the next three years. As stated above, the focus should be on our commitment to mission and Marist spirituality, and promoting communion with lay people to support the work of the Province.

The Chapter ended on the morning of Friday 5th April. In his closing remarks Brother Brendan reminded the capitulants that in his opening speech he had expressed a hope that the Chapter would build bridges of encounter and dialogue, among the capitulants and with lay people.



A heart that knows no bounds

At a ceremony and Mass in St. Peter's Square on **April 18, 1999**, Pope John Paul II declared that Marcellin Champagnat is a Saint of the Universal Church.



OCEANIA REGION

Enlarged General Council

The General Council met in Mittagong, Australia, from 24 to 27 March, with the Councils of the Provinces of Australia and New Zealand and the District of Melanesia. The Brothers taking part were : Emili Turú, Joseph McKee, Eugène Kabanguka, John Klein, Víctor Preciado, Antonio Ramalho, Ernesto Sanchez, Josep María Soteras, and Michael de Waas of the General Council ; Jeffrey Crowe, Darren Burge Tony Caddy, Peter Carroll, Michael Green, Paul Kane, and Graham Neist of the Province of Australia ; David McDonald, Nevil Bingley, Terence Costello, Peter Horide, Siasoi Ioane, and Kevin Wanden of the Province of New Zealand; Ken McDonald, Jean Marie Batick, Cornelius Kelets, Mark Kenatsi and Ken Lasin of the District of Melanesia. Anthony Robinson and Anthony D'Arbon acted as secretaries.



The principal matters treated by the enlarged Council were the calls of the General Chapter, the priorities and guidelines defined by the General Council and the questions coming from the three Administrative Units which make up the Region of Oceania.

On the first day, each AU was able to present its situation and the questions which particularly concern it.

The second day began with Br Emili's presentation of the General Conference to be held next September at the Hermitage. He took the opportunity to explain the work going on at La Valla. Then he initiated a reflection on the three icons mentioned in his circular : Pentecost, Annunciation and Visitation. Pentecost (interaction) asks us about what

type of community we are in process of building ; the Annunciation (interiority) presents Mary to us as the model of openness to the Holy Spirit and invites us to become « masters of spirituality » ; the Visitation (inclusion), on the other hand, led Br Emili to ask how we can become prophets in our mission. The Superior General's reflections were followed by a time of personal meditation and dialogue around tables, then by sharing in common.

The third day, Br Joe McKee took up some General Chapter themes, emphasizing that we are called to look for new ways of being brothers. The tables reflected and shared about his words. In the afternoon, Br Anthony Robinson, Oceania regional coordinator, made a presentation on the Region, explaining the history of the Regional Council, the principles guiding its progress, the successes achieved and what still remains to be done.

The last day, 23/03, Br Joe McKee guided a debate on the international character of the Institute and its consequences for the Region of Oceania. He recalled Br Emili's letter « To the ends of the earth », emphasizing that the institute is much larger than Oceania. It needs to be clear to everyone that as brothers we belong to the Institute, and not simply to a Province. It is in this context that the roles of the Secretariat of International Collaboration for Mission and the International Commission for New Models of Animation, Administration and Government, and other initiatives of the General Council are to be explained. The topic raised a healthy discussion at the tables, then a general sharing.

At the beginning of Wednesday afternoon, the Provincial Councillors met to consider the proposals for the District Statutes of Melanesia and the Pacific, the Memorandum of Agreement bearing on the interdependence of the three AUs, and the « canonical figure » of the lay Marist, that is, what to do to have it officially recognized.

During the final session, Brothers Ernesto Sánchez and Eugène Kabanguka guided an evaluation of the meeting. The response was very positive.

In closing the meeting Emili reminded all present:

'Interdependence' is not an option, we are all, already, interdependent. Keep the vision alive that we are all part of the one body. Be the change that you want to see."

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